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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-second session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Item 4 (b)

Programme 10
Environment

1. At its 12th meeting, on 19 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 10, "Environment", of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 10)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of these revisions.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the proposed revisions to programme 10, in particular for the inclusion of references to the Millennium Declaration, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. It was emphasized that the strategy of the programme should cover all the elements relating to the United Nations Environment Programme contained in General Assembly resolutions 55/2, "United

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Nations Millennium Declaration", and 56/95, "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit".

4. Concern was expressed about the proposed deletion of the reference to water in paragraph 10.21 (b), of the proposed revisions and it was pointed out that explicit reference should continue to be made to it, considering the importance of this natural element.

5. It was stated that the revisions to the medium-term plan should be consistent primarily with the actual medium-term plan rather than with the results-based budgeting narrative approved in the programme budget for the 2002-2003 biennium. It was also recalled that General Assembly resolution 55/231 stipulated that expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should be used to measure achievements of the Organization and not those of individual Member States.

6. The view was expressed that further revisions would be necessary following the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2002.

7. It was stated that the perverse incentives over the environment, such as agricultural subsidies, must be avoided. The view was also expressed that environmental criteria should not be used as trade barriers.

8. The Global Reporting Initiative was commended as a voluntary initiative on natural resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 10, Environment, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Paragraph 10.3

In the last sentence, replace the word "UNEP" with the words "the mandates of UNEP".

[Insert at the end of the last sentence the words "as well as the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC III) (2001)".]

Paragraph 10.3 (c)

At the end of paragraph 10.3 (c), insert the words "paying full attention to the gender dimension".

Paragraph 10.20 (a)

Replace the words "particularly energy and water" with the words "including energy, water and biodiversity".

Paragraph 10.20 (c)

– **Add the words "the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes" after the words "Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants".**

– **Delete the words "and so on".**

Paragraph 10.20 (d)

Replace the words "the effective and integrated implementation" with the words "the effective and coordinated implementation".

Paragraph 10.20 (i)

Replace paragraph 10.20 (i) with the following "promoting cooperation between UNEP, UNCTAD and WTO within their mandates".

Paragraph 10.21 (a)

Replace paragraph 10.21 (a) with the following: "the enhanced capacity of countries, particularly developing countries, with the assistance of UNEP, to assess, to have access to and to adopt affordable environmentally sound technologies".

Paragraph 10.21 (b)

– **Retain the original wording of paragraph 10.21 (b) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.**

– **Delete the new text for paragraph 10.21 (b).**

Paragraph 10.21 (c)

– **Retain the original wording of paragraph 10.21 (c) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1, as follows: "reduced pollution and risks for human beings and their environments", and renumber as new paragraph 10.21 (g).**

– **Delete the words "and their environmental and social performance, including the gender dimension."**

Paragraph 10.21 (d)

– **Retain the original wording of paragraph 10.21 (d) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1, as follows: "identification of means of minimizing the adverse environmental impacts of economic policy, especially trade liberalization and investment policies".**

– **Delete the new text of paragraph 10.21 (d).**

Paragraph 10.21 (e)

Replace paragraph 10.21 (e), with the following: "continuing efforts and concrete initiatives to encourage decision-makers at the national, regional and

local levels to address the economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainable development".

Paragraph 10.21 (h)

Insert a new paragraph 10.21 (h), to read, "trade and investment policies supportive of sustainable development".

Paragraph 10.22 (b)

Revise paragraph 10.22 (b) to read "the number of countries in which renewable energy, advanced fossil fuel technologies and energy efficiency, as appropriate, are introduced and used as elements of national energy policies and strategies".

Paragraph 10.22 (c)

Replace paragraph 10.22 (c) with the following: "the number of companies voluntarily using relevant guidelines, including the use of the Global Reporting Initiative Guidelines to report on their use of natural resources".

Paragraph 10.22 (d)

- **Retain the original wording of paragraph 10.22 (d) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1, as follows: "the number of countries and industries commencing or strengthening programmes on awareness of and preparedness for emergencies at the local level or the equivalent and the number of companies adopting environmental management systems".**

- **Delete new text of paragraph 10.22 (d).**

Paragraph 10.22 (e)

- **Retain the original wording of paragraph 10.22 (e) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1, as follows: "the number of environmentally responsible investment patterns employed by the private sector and the development and use of environmental procedures and practices".**

- **Delete the new text in paragraph 10.22 (e).**

Paragraph 10.22 (f)

Replace paragraph 10.22 (f) with the following: "the number of countries, particularly developing countries, with the enhanced capacity to assess, to have access to and to adopt affordable environmentally sound technologies as a result of UNEP assistance."

Paragraph 10.22 (g)

Revise paragraph 10.22 (g) to read "the number of signatures/ratifications relevant to multilateral environmental agreements".